

West Virginia Writers' Project
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Source Mrs. Mary Turner & Maggie Rackman Filed Billpoint, W. Va.

Mrs. A. W. McNeill & Georgie Loudermilk Buckeye, W. Va.

C. W. Pritch and Carey Davis Marlinton.

A part from R. W. Brown's history of Greenbank District



And Industry. Samuel W. Smith Hillsboro, Va. Pocahontas County.

The pioneers of Pocahontas County went through with many hardships not only in clearing the land, into fertile fields, blazing trails, fighting the Indians and establishing and maintaining homes it fell on the shoulders of the housewife to furnish the necessary clothing and bedding for the entire family which was generally made of wool which was shorn often times by the wife washed, carded and spun by her into various kinds of clothing which was used by her family the socks and other clothing were made of wool spun on the old Spinning Wheel which was generally used in the winter months. From this wool socks, sweaters, blankets and other clothing and bedding was made almost entirely by hand and it was about this time that the Loom came into use by the pioneers of Pocahontas County way back in the first part of the eighteenth century.

During the eighteenth century and in the first part of the nineteenth Pocahontas County had many looms and many weavers as most of the women folk were taught to spin and weave at an early age.

Among some of the weavers brought to the attention of the writer was Nancy Patton of Millpoint who wove on a loom in the middle of the eighteenth century she being a fancy weaver making mostly tablecloths and Counterpane which are held by the Gallows at Millpoint. Her daughter Elizabeth W. wife of James Hookman was also a weaver and a spinner

Commerce & Industry. Samuel S Smith Millsboro. U. Va. Pocahontas Co.

When finished it was put into a suit of clothes for her husband. She also wove for other people namely bedspreads and counterpane and carpet her loom was bought from the late Mrs. Isaac McNeil of Millpoint in 1897 and she wove on it until 1918 just before her death.

William H Gabbert was born in Greenbrier County 1840 the son of Stewart ~~McNeil~~ Gabbert he being a fine young man his mother taught him to weave on the loom, when he was about 30 years of age they moved to Millpoint and located over the millrace in what was known as the loom house here he wove Coverlets, counterpanes, table linen, girthen carpet, jeans and lincy some of which his daughter Mary Turner is the proud owner some of the wool used by him was carded on the old Wellington T Hogsett carding machine at the lower mill at Millpoint, he later moved to Bunkerville where he practiced his profession selling his ware to friends and neighbors locally, in his declining years he moved in with his daughter Mary Turner at Marvin Chapel above Millpoint where he continued to weave and did so up until his death in 1920. His work is in the hands of many people of Pocahontas County as he often went from house to house wherever they had a loom his last loom was bought from Ezra Waugh of near Perry and now in the hands of Mrs. Turner.

Another weaver of mention was Lydia Beverage wife of Washington Beverage and other nickys on Dry Creek, her first loom was used before her by

Textile & Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County.
Beverage made her a loom with which she wove for many people as she wove
coverlets, blankets, carpet, and linen towels, she wove until about 1920 .

Hannah Glasgow wife of Timothy Gdonan was born 1813 was the daughter
of George Kee who came from Ireland, she was taught to weave at an
early age as she wove all the bed clothing, their dresses and in fact wove
all the cloth that went to make their clothing, she wove for other people
carpet 10cts a yard, lincy 10cts and flannel 15 cts a yard

Jonathan McNeill was a weaver and dyer he wove at what is the entrance
to McClinton farms today, he made his own dyes as did the rest of the
old weavers.

Very few people living today are able to weave but one exception
is Georgie Loudermilk of near Bucokeye who learned to weave when a young
girl but has not wove for several years but she remembers most of the designs
as they were called the following are some of them and the one who copied
and wove by them Virginia Fancy, by Mrs. Winton Duffield,
The Flying Sun by Jane McNeill, The Double Rose Jane Adkison 1848, The King
lover, Petersburg Beauty by Mrs J A Moore, 1921, Albermarl Beauty by Jane
McNeill 1846, The Golden Heels & Diamonds, The Leaf & Square by Nancy Roake
1847, The Heels, The Gleaming Star, Royal Beauty, by Georgie Loudermilk, 1912
The Young Man's Fancy, Mountain Life by Maude Loudermilk (now Mrs. F. C.

Carpet & Industry. Samuel C Smith Hillsboro, Va. Pocahontas County.

(1914). The Ginny Hen by Nancy Roakes. The Bow Knot. The Globe. The Seat
by Jane McNeill. The True Lovers Knot came to this county in 1864 from Lost
Creek W. Va. All of these patterns were wove by our pioneer weavers and today
these drafts are cherished by Mrs A. J McNeill of Buckeye as her mother Lydia
beverage wove from these same drafts years ago as well as the ones that made
the patterns and whose names are attached.

The following were weavers Georgie Loder milk, Jane Adkison, Katie
Hannah, Susan Rogers, Elizabeth McNeill, Mary McNeill, Jane Hinnison, Catherine
Armstrong, Francis Cundiff, Mildred Kee, Elizabeth Buckley, and Malissa Fleming
all of the Beugo Community. Nancy Syner, Angeline Gaylor and Catherine Under-
wood of Beaver Creek, and many others .

Cary Duda of Marlinton who has very poor eyesight learned the
weaving trade while at school this was about 1911 he wove carpet, rugs and
chair seats much of his ware is found in and near Marlinton but due to his
eyes, he stopped operating temporarily. Priest Kessler of Greenbank who lost
his eyes, at several years ago and brooms at his shop just above Greenbank
his brooms found a ready sale and were sold throughout the county and other
parts of the state.

After the revolutionary war the late Frederick Phillips who
was a wheel right hander a lathe and looms, spinning whirle, spools, spool fr-

Countert & Inventory Edward E Smith Hillsboro, Va. Pocahontas Co.

and chairs, his looms and spinning wheels found ready sale all over Pocahontas County and especially the Greenbank community.

The loom and Spinning wheel era played a very important part in the development of Pocahontas County, as this was their sole way of getting clothing and bedding as there was very few stores and money was very scarce therefore it fell upon the shoulders of the mothers and daughters to supply these essential articles for the entire family. Some of these articles are cherished very dearly by the people of this county, not only are they keepakes of high value but you can see the quality of the product made in the many homes by hand by the wives of our forefathers that blessed the way that we today might have a more abundant life.

We might have looms in operation today but factory weaving is much faster, production larger as it would be almost impossible to supply the clothing needs of today by the wheel and the loom, nevertheless we have here in Pocahontas County today some few people using the spinning wheel and occasionally a loom in operation, but the latter used in making carpet more than anything else.

Wife of Mary Turner & Maggie Macken Millpoint, W. Va.

Wife of Loudermilk Duckys, W. Va.

Wife of Mary Davis Marlinton, W. Va.

Wife of ... of Greenbank District. (a part)